

B. All public lands within T. 1 S., R. 2 W. lying within the NCA north of the Snake River Canyon.

C. All public lands within T. 1 S., R. 1 W. lying north of the Snake River Canyon and west of Swan Falls Road. Also within the same township, all of Section 1 and that portion of Sections 12 and 13 lying north of the Pacific Power and Light Company 500 KV electric transmission line.

D. All public lands within T. 1 S., R. 1 E. lying north of the Pacific Power and Light Company 500 KV electric transmission line.

E. All public lands within T. 2 S., R. 1 W. and T. 2 S., R. 1 E. lying west of Swan Falls Road and east of the Snake River Canyon.

2. The following described public lands are closed from February 15 to August 31 to the discharge of shotguns and muzzleloaders, and closed year-round to the discharge of rifles and pistols, with the exception that rifles may be used during established deer hunting seasons in Hunting Unit 40.

All public lands from Grandview, Idaho downstream to Guffey Bridge, lying within 1/2 mile of either side of the Snake River or 100 yards back from the canyon rim, whichever is the greater distance.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NCA was established on August 4, 1993 to protect and enhance raptors, their habitat, and associated natural and scientific resources. The NCA encompasses 484,873 acres of public land in southwest Idaho, extending along 80 miles of the Snake River. The above-described closures and restrictions are effective immediately, and will continue in effect until specifically revoked or modified.

This order is issued pursuant to the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1. The order implements decisions in the 1995 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Management Plan to improve safety for persons visiting the NCA, and is consistent with land use plan decisions found in the Bruneau, Kuna, and Owyhee Management Framework Plans. Violation of this order is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact John Sullivan, National Conservation Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake River District, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705.

Rodger E. Schmitt,  
District Resource Coordinator.

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### **Vehicle Management Area Designation and Road Closure Order; Ada, Elmore, Canyon, and Owyhee Counties, ID**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Effective immediately, the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) is declared a Designated Vehicle Management Area except for those portions of the NCA currently included within the Owyhee Front Special Recreation Management Area and the Fossil Creek Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Management Unit. Also excepted from this order is military training maneuvers within the Orchard Training Area. Operation of motorized vehicles within the Designated Vehicle Management Area will be restricted to designated roads and trails. In addition, the following described roads and trails are closed to motorized vehicles:

1. The unimproved dirt road extending downstream along the north side of the Snake River from the Initial Butte Farms pump station in Section 35, T. 1 S., R. 1 W. to where the road enters private land in Section 36, T. 1 S., R. 2 W.

2. The unimproved dirt road, known as Priest Grade, that traverses the wall of the Snake River Canyon in Section 33, T. 1 S., R. 1 W.

3. The trail that extends along the south side of the Snake River from near the pump station at the end of Con Shea Basin Road in Section 6, T. 1 S., R. 1 W. downstream to Guffey Bridge.

4. The trail on the south side of the Snake River extending downstream from the lower end of the old Priest Ranch.

5. The Cabin Draw road in Section 11, T. 4 S., R. 2 E. Except for the above-described road closures, visitors to the NCA may drive on existing roads or trails unless or until they are designated as "closed". As road inventories are completed, designated vehicle routes will be signed as "open". Roads or trails designated as "closed" will be signed, blocked where necessary, and rehabilitated as needed to reduce soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat.

The Bureau of Land Management retains the right to use or authorize use of roads and trails, or authorize specific off-road travel for administrative or emergency purposes. This vehicle management area designation and closure order shall remain in effect until specifically revoked or modified.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NCA was established on August 4, 1993 to

protect and enhance raptors, their habitat, and associated natural and scientific resources. The NCA encompasses 484,873 acres of public land in southwest Idaho, extending along 80 miles of the Snake River. This order is issued pursuant to the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1, and is consistent with decisions in the 1995 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Management Plan, the Bruneau, Kuna, and Owyhee Management Framework Plans, and the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan. Violation of this order is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Sullivan, National Conservation Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake River District, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705.

Rodger E. Schmitt,

District Resource Coordinator.

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### **Shooting Closure on Public Lands in Placitas, New Mexico**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Shooting closure.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rio Puerco Resource Area is closing approximately 2,499.09 acres of public lands in the Rio Puerco Resource Area, located in Sandoval County, New Mexico, to the discharge of firearms (including black powder and antique arms). This action will provide the necessary public safety and will also decrease potential conflicts with recreational users by keeping a logical shooting area open. Unrestricted discharge of firearms in this area has lead to a public health and safety issue with recreational users including hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, bird watching groups, and others.

The public lands closed to discharging of firearms under this closure will be posted with signs at the most prominent points of public access as well as being displayed on a map available for public information at the area office.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Notice is hereby given that effective March 22, 1996, shooting on public lands is prohibited on approximately ten sections of public lands in Sandoval County, New Mexico.